

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing male terminal fittings (1), comprising:

performing a press-cutting step for press-cutting a base plate (8) to define original forms (9) of terminal fittings (1) provided with base ends (5); and

forming plated surfaces (13) on outer surfaces of the original forms (9) of the terminal fittings (1), wherein only the base ends are formed during the press-cutting step while leaving a part of the base plate to become leading ends without being press-cut.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2_1, wherein the press-cutting step is a first press-cutting step, and wherein the method further comprises performing a second press-cutting step after the plating step to form the leading ends (4) of the original forms (9) of the terminal fittings (1).

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the second press-cutting step includes removing a remainder piece (14) from the leading ends (4).

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the second press-cutting step includes forming couplings (16) at intermediate positions near the leading ends (4).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the first press-cutting step includes forming the base ends (5) to extend from a strip (10) at substantially right angles.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein pitch holes ~~(12)~~ are formed in the strip ~~(10)~~ for engagement with projections of a press machine to feed the strip ~~(10)~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the plating step includes forming the plated surfaces ~~(13)~~ on all the surfaces of the original forms ~~(9)~~ excluding the strip ~~(10)~~.

9. (currently amended) A method for producing male terminal fittings ~~(1)~~, comprising:

providing a base plate ~~(8)~~ with opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edges;

performing a first press-cutting step on the base plate ~~(8)~~ to define a plurality of spaced-apart base ends ~~(5)~~ spaced inwardly from the first and second edges, each base end ~~(5)~~ having two opposite cut edges extending between the first and second surfaces;

plating the base plate ~~(8)~~ to apply plating to the first and second surfaces from the second edge to a location including substantially all of the base ends ~~(5)~~ and for applying the plating to the opposite cut edges of each said base end ~~(5)~~; and

performing a second press-cutting step on the base-plate ~~(8)~~ for forming a plurality of spaced-apart leading ends ~~(4)~~ adjacent the second edge, each of said leading ends ~~(4)~~ having two opposed cut edges extending between the first and second surfaces, such that the cut edges of the leading ends ~~(4)~~ are non-plated.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the second press-cutting step includes removing a remainder piece ~~(14)~~ from between the leading ends ~~(4)~~.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the second press-cutting step includes forming couplings ~~(16)~~ at intermediate positions between the leading ends ~~(4)~~ and the base ends ~~(5)~~ of adjacent terminal fittings ~~(4)~~.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first press-cutting step includes forming the base ends ~~(5)~~ to extend from a strip ~~(10)~~ adjacent the first side edge at substantially right angles.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the plating step includes leaving the strip ~~(10)~~ substantially unplated.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising separating the base ends ~~(5)~~ from the strip ~~(10)~~.

15. (canceled).